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DE RUEHML #0978 1160124

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0474

INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE

RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0266

UNCLAS MANILA 000978

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP, DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM PREL RP EUN

SUBJECT: U.N. PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE DECLARATION:
PHILIPPINES NEEDS TIME TO STUDY

REF: SECSTATE 40380

¶1. (SBU) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Office of United Nations and International Organizations (UNIO) understands and appreciates that the EU-U.S. sponsored UN Declaration on Prisoners of Conscience (reftel) is a country-neutral affirmation of fundamental human rights. It cannot provide a statement or confirm whether it will be one of the signatories because UNIO Office of Human Rights Director Josephine Reynante is traveling the week of April 21 - 25. Poloff delivered the demarche and the text of the declaration April 21 to Special Assistant Querobine Deapera, who passed it to UNIO Executive Director Grace Princesa and UNIO Office of Political, Security and Legal Matters Director Leah Ruiz. Princesa noted in an April 23 follow-up conversation that Reynante has direct responsibility for the issue and will not be available for comment until April 28 (also one of the possible dates for the declaration's presentation); therefore UNIO cannot provide a definitive response at this time.

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JONES